4

THE INTERIOR JOURNAL.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER : : 6, 1872.

HINTS FOR FARMERS.

We clip the following items from the *American Agriculturist*, one of the best Monthly Journals in America, published by Orrange, Judd & Co., New York: at $1 00 per annum:

We are beginning to look back on the year 1872 and forward to the year 1873. December is a half-way house, a breathing spot. It is neutral ground. The labors of the past year are nearly ended; those of the new hardly commenced. The days are short, and during the long evenings we shall think over the past, and lay plans for the future. With the majority of farmers the past year has not been a prosperous one. But let us not brood over our troubles. If we have made mistakes, let us look them fairly in the face. Let us not seek to excuse ourselves. Let us acknowledge that they were mistakes. Let us feel them keenly. Let them make a deep impression on the mind. There is pleasure, profit, strength, and wisdom in humility. But do not brood over blunders. It will do no good. Better treat them as you would a hollow tooth. Have it filled or have it out. It does no good to let it ache. We need to forget the things that are behind and to press forward. We need courage, faith, hope, energy. The man that sees a lion in the way, and who will not take his hands out of his pockets for reason of the cold, will not make a successful American farmer. It is difficult for us to comprehend the character of the age in which we live. Things move so rapidly that we must be wide-awake or we shall be left behind.

We greatly mistake the signs of the times if we are not about to introduce a better system of agriculture, better breeds of animals, and a higher condition of farm-life. But the first improvement must be in ourselves. We must think more and work to better advantage. Never allow yourself to say "*I have not time*" to do anything that you ought to do. It is rarely true. You may not have strength, or energy, or inclination. Very few of us have learned how to economize or husband our energy. We waste it worrying, or dreaming, or moodily wishing instead of working. It will do no good to complain of "hard times." They *are* hard. And we deeply sympathize with, and would not say a harsh word to a farmer with a family dependent on him who has pressing debts to pay and little to sell, and that little not worth in market the cost of production. There is no remedy except to hope and to word. To a man who does not work times are never good. To one who does, there are fair prospects ahead—we think never better or brighter.

BE CLEAN IN THE HOUSE.

There is much dirty work to be done on the farm, and a farmer should dress appropriately to his work. But there is no reason when his work is done for the day why he should sit down in the evening with his pantloons stuck in his boots. We cordially dislike foppishness, but cleanliness is one of the cardinal virtues. The farmers or the farmer's son who does not make himself and his clothes clean before he sits down at night has something yet to learn in regard to the pleasures and advantages of a quiet country life.

ANIMALS.

Next to himself and his family, a farmer's thought and attention should be turned to his animals. If we look upon them as machines for the conversion of straw, stalks, roots, hay and grain into beef, mutton, wool, milk, pork, eggs, etc,, we should never forget that they differ very materially from ordinary machines, that we can start and stop when we please, and stow them away when not in use. The animal machine is always running, winter and summer, night and day, and a farmer's first care should be to see that it is always running to some good purpose.

HORSES.

If possible, work the horses moderately during the winter, and let them have grain enough to keep them in good condition. A horse that has been overworked and surfeited with grain may be the better for a winters run at a straw stack. But this is not the usual condition of farm horses. As a rule, it would be better to keep them in the stable and work them regularly. Labor is comparatively cheap in winter, and there is much work that can be done with advantage, especially if it has been prepared in advance. Gravel may be drawn for the roads; stones or rails may be drawn for fences; manure may be drawn out and spread on the fields; plaster can be drawn from the mill; apple-trees can be pruned and the branches drawn off at the time and not left on the ground; grain can be taken to the mill and ground, not merely as it is wanted; but enough for the whole year. Draining-tiles may be procured, lumber drawn, wood brought to the house and sawn; straw, hay, and corn-stalks may be cut into chaff with a horse-power machine. In many places hay may be drawn to market, and a load of manure brought back with profit and advantage. These are only a few things that may be done. We are sure that farmers, by a little planning in advance, can very generally keep nearly all their teams moderately at work all winter.

COWS.

Where hay is scarce and straw and stalks abundant, it will pay to chaff the latter for cows and mix mill-feed and corn-meal with it. Keep the cows in a moderately warm, well-ventilated stable, clean it out every day, and turn out the cows twice a day to water, and let them stay out an hour or two when the weather is favorable. But avoid letting them get chilled in storms.

SWINE.

When corn is worth less than forty cents per bushel it will pay well, even at the present low price of pork, to make the hogs fat before selling them. Packers want small, fine-boned pigs, but they want them well fattened. Store pigs should be kept growing rapidly. The prospects are favorable for an advance in pork another year, and farmers, especially in the West, should feed their young stock liberally. Breeding sows should have as much exercise as you can make them take in searching for food. But, at the same time, they should be able to find as much as they need to keep them in vigorous health and good condition. For thoroughbred sows, which keep easily, and are apt to get too fat, the food should be of a rather bulky nature, such as bran, turnips, etc. Sows go sixteen weeks. If you have a number of sows, and are short of breeding-pens, it will be well to push forward a few sows and keep back the others. This can be done by giving those you wish served first a little extra corn for a week or ten days. Provide dry, well-ventilated quarters, and see that they are kept clean an well littered. Do not allow old and young pigs to run together. The young, growing pigs should have all the food they will eat and digest. If they are of the right kind, that mature early, they must have good food, and plenty of it, while young, or they will not be healthy.

AS LONG AS THE GROUND IS NOT FROZEN keep at work getting ready for winter. Finish the Fall plowing. Plow the garden. If you have any large stones to draw off, raise them up a few inches now, and put a small stone or a peice of wood under them to prevent their being frozen to the ground. They can then be easily loaded on a sleigh or stone-boat in winter and drawn off easily. Bank up the cellars. If potatoes are pitted, and have only one coat of straw and earth on them, put on another thin layer of straw and cover it with a few inches of earth. This is the great secret of keeping out frost. The layer of straw between the two layers of earth holds dead-air, which is the cheapest and best of non-conductors. Go over the farm during or immediately after a heavy rain with a hoe and spade, and see that the water has a chance to flow off freely. This is very important, not only for wheat, but for land intended to be plowed in spring.

ORCHARD AND NURSERY.

Young trees need care at this season, whether newly-set or not, as there is great danger from mice and stray cattle. The gates and fences should be properly secured, and when a light snow falls, it should be firmly trodden down around each tree, to keep the mice from knawing the bark. It is a good practice to raise a mound of earth, a foot high around the trunk of newly-set trees, as a support for them during the high winds, as well as a security againt mice.

Rabbits are prevented from injuring the trees by sprinkling blood upon them, or wrapping them with tarred paper; the former is, however, the best.

If any pruning is to be done, it is better to select mild days during early winter than to delay until spring. Where large limbs are removed, the wounds should be covered with a varnish of gum-shellac, or with melted grafting-wax.

When the trees are not frozen, cions may be cut, labeled, tied in small bundles, and stored in earth or saw-dust. Grafting is a very easy method of stocking an orchard with good varieties of fruit, and the operation has often been explained.

Should any water stand upon the surface of the orchard, surface drains should be opened.

How to Sleep.

We are often asked for a prescription for preternaturally wakeful persons. The "high pressure" principle on which many of our business men work their brains and abuse their bodies, begets an irritable condition of the nerves, and a morbid state of mind, very antagonistic to quiet and refreshing sleep. Such persons will often go to bed weary and exhausted, but cannot sleep; or sleep dreamily and fitfully, or lie awake for hours, unable to sleep at all. We have tried many expedients to induce sleep with more or less success, and have read many recipes which proved better in theory than in practice. The very best method we have yet discovered is that of counting. Breathe deeply and slowly (without any straining effort) and, with every expiration, count one, two, three, etc., up to a hundred. Some persons will be asleep before they can count fifty in this manner. Others will count ten, twenty or thirty, and then forget themselves and cease counting. In such cases always commence again at once. Very few persons can count a hundred and find themselve awake; but should this happen repeat the dose until cured.—*Science of Health.*

Pretty Good.

About the commencement of the late unpleasantness, Judge Sam. Rice made a speech in North Alabama, in which he said the "Southern soldiers can whip the Yankees with popguns."

After the war, when things wore a different aspect, he chanced to make another, but a very different sort of speech, in the same place, when an indignant voter, who had heard and remembered the former boastful harrangue, rolled up his sleeves and approached the Judge as follows:

"Sam. Rice, didn't you make a speech here in 1861?"

"I did," said Sam.

"And didn't you say that we could whip the Yankees with pop-guns?"

"Certainly I did, but the d—d rascals wouldn't consent to fight us that way!"

Hints About Housekeeping.

We give to intelligence, to religion, and to all virtues, the honor that belongs to them. And still it may be boldly affirmed that economy, taste, skill and neatness in the kitchen have a great deal to with making life happy and prosperous.

Nor is it indispensably necessary that a house should be filled with luxuries. The qualifications for all good housekeeping can be displayed on a small scale as well as on a large one.

A small house can be more easily kept than a palace. Economy is most needed in the absence of abundance.

Taste is as well displayed in placing dishes on a pine table as in arranging the folds of a damask curtain.

Skillfull cooking is as readily discovered in a nicely baked potato, or a respectable Johnny-cake, as a nutbrown sirloin or a brace of canvass-backs.

The charm of good housekeeping, in the order of economy and taste displayed in attention to little things, has a wonderful influence.

A dirty kitchen and bad cooking have driven many a one from home to seek comfort and happiness somewhere else.

Domestic economy is a science—a theory of life which all sensible women ought to practice. None of our girls are fit to be married until they are thoroughly educated in the mysteries of the kitchen.

See to it, all ye who are mothers, that your daughters are accomplished by an experimental knowledge of good housekeeping.

"We all Like Sheep."

A good story is told of the excellent performance of Handel's "Mesiah," at the Broadway Baptist Church. A farmer took his wife to hear the grand music so splendidly rendered on that occasion, and, after listening with apparent enjoyment, the pair became suddenly interested in one of the grand choruses—"We all, like sheep, have gone astray." First, a sharp soprano voice exclaimed:

"We all like sheep—"

Next a deep bass voice uttered, in the most earnest tones:

"We all like sheep—"

Then the singers at once asserted:

"We all like sheep—"

"Darn'd if I do!" exclaimed the old rusticus to his partner. "I like beef and bacon, but I can't bear sheep meat."

There was an audible titer in that vicinity, but the splendid music attracted attention from the pair and they quietly slipped out.—*Louisville Courier-Journal.*

It has been computed that there are standing in the forests of Michigan, at the present time, over 40,000,000,000 feet of mercantile pine lumber. It is estimated that, if the consumption continues to increase in the same ratio as in the past few years, the pine forests will be entirely swept away within ten years.